

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 ITC-01 PA-01
PRS-01 AGRE-00 /057 W
-----020901Z 033317 /10

R 011630Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 517
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE EEC: THE 1970 AGREEMENT

REF: MADRID 2951

1. SUMMARY: IN NEGOTIATIONS STILL CONTINUING IN BRUSSELS, A SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISE HAS BEEN REACHED ON UPDATING THE 1970 EEC-6/SPAIN AGREEMENT. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED ON EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT'S TRADE COVERAGE TO THE FULL EC-NINE BUT WITHOUT FORMALLY AMENDING THE 1970. ACCORD. SPAIN WILL RECEIVE UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR "STANDSTILL" TARIFF TREATMENT FOR ITS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE U.K. IRELAND AND DENMARK. COMPREHENSIVE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD NEXT FALL. SPANISH MFA TELLS US THAT THIS SCENARIO SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT IN DIPLOMATIC NOTES BEFORE THE END OF JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE APRIL 5 EEC MANDATE FOR UPDATING THE 1970 ACCORD WITH SPAIN CALLED FOR A TWO-STEP APPROACH: EXPAND COVERAGE FROM
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THE EC-SIX TO THE EC-NINE AND THEN, IN THE FALL, NEGOTIATE LIMITED TARIFF REDUCTIONS. THE SPANISH CABINET PUBLICLY REJECTED THE EEC MANDATE (OR WHAT THE MANDATE WAS BELIEVED TO BE) AS "INSUFFICIENT" ON APRIL 15. A COMPROMISE VERSION OF THE TWO-STEP APPROACH WAS AGREED, TO IN PRINCIPAL, ON MAY 27 IN BRUSSELS. THE COMPROMISE BLURS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO

STEPS BY TAKING THE FIRST STEP IN A REVOCABLE AND
LESS FORMAL WAY. ACCORDING TO MFA (FERRAN) AN EX-
CHANGE OF NOTES TO BE HAMMERED OUT IN TWO TO THREE
WEEKS WILLEXTEND 1970-ACCORDTARIFF TREATMENT TO
ALL EC-NINE COUNTRIES AND SPAIN, EXCEPT THAT SPAIN
WILRETAIN UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR UNCHANGED
ACCESS TOTHE U.K. IRELANDAND DENMARK FOR SPANISH
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. SPAIN WILL NOT GET (AT LEAST
NOT NOW) THE AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS ITHAD OPED
FOR.

3. SPANISH EEC NEGOTIATIONS FOR MUTUAL TARIFF
NELOTIATIT S, THESECOND STAGE I UPDATINGTHE
1970 ACCORD, ARE TO BE HELD NEXT FALL. THESE
NEGOTIATINS WILL THEREFOREFALL AFTER THE EXPECTED
SPANISH APPLICATION FOR FULEEC MEMBERSHIP AND
BEFORE THE NEWEXPIRATION DATE FOR STANDSTILL TREAT-
MENT IN THE U.K. IRISH AND DANISH AGRICULTURAL MARKETS.STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY TERMINATION, TRADE, MEETING REPORTS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID04251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770196-0505
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706103/aaaadmdk.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7ea0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 2951
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2003433
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN AND THE EEC: THE 1970 AGREEMENT
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, SP, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d7ea0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009